

VZCZCXRO9332
PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #1948 2360534
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 240534Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5660
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6036
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 8367
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 3450
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 6549
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9844
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0578
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2992
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7241
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6867
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001948

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - INTER-KOREAN RELATIONS

¶1. LEAD STORIES: All Monday morning papers gave extensive front- and inside-page coverage to yesterday's meeting between South Korean President Lee and a North Korean delegation that visited Seoul to convey condolences over the death of former ROK President Kim Dae-jung.

¶2. "North Korea Uses South Korea to Get Out of Predicament" The conservative Sankei noted (8/24): "North Korea is trying to gain 'practical benefits' such as the resumption of [economic] assistance and cooperation by softening South Korean public opinion through displaying gestures of condolence and dialogue, and prompting the Lee administration to change its hard line toward North Korea.... North Korea has probably concluded that a resumption of North-South dialogue or an improvement in inter-Korean relations would be beneficial to realize its foremost goal of holding talks and improving ties with the U.S."

¶3. "Differences in Enthusiasm for Dialogue between North and South" The business-oriented Nikkei stated from Seoul (8/24): "North Korea's 'dialogue offensive' became more pronounced when DPRK leader Kim Jong Il relayed to ROK President Lee his message for improved inter-Korean ties. This move reflected Pyongyang's desire to acquire 'practical benefits,' such as North-South joint cooperation projects. However, it remains to be seen whether the latest development will lead to progress on nuclear issues, including a resumption of the Six-Party Talks, given that suspicion remains strong within the ROK government that Pyongyang is trying to stage an atmosphere of improved inter-Korean relations in order to promote dialogue with the U.S."

ROOS